

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2005

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, Chair  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
401 Ninth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004-2129

Dear Chairman Tomlinson:

We write to express our serious concerns about reports of your interference in the programming decisions and governance of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Press reports have noted that you requested a review of the program "Now With Bill Moyers," made payments to Republican lobbyists, and did not disclose these actions to the Board of the CPB. We are greatly troubled by these allegations, and if they prove true, we believe your conduct as Chairman of the Board has been highly inappropriate.

In addition, it has been reported that on Monday the CPB Board intends to select Patricia Harrison, an Assistant Secretary of State and a former Co-Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, as its new president. We find it astonishing that Ms. Harrison, given her former prominence as a partisan political figure, would even be considered as a candidate for a job that demands that the occupant be non-political. The Association of Public Television Stations, state boards of public broadcasting, and others have expressed significant alarm over this move. We believe it would be a serious mistake to select Ms. Harrison as president of an organization that is designed to insulate public broadcasters from government and politics.


We understand our concerns are shared by several members of the Board, who have asked that the vote be postponed in order to allow for a full, transparent and effective search for an exceptionally talented and unbiased leader. We know there is a large and diverse pool of candidates who fit these criteria.

In light of these concerns and the grave consequences this action could bring, we believe it would be wholly inappropriate to proceed with Monday's decision. We encourage you in the strongest possible terms to delay the vote to allow time to address these important issues and ensure that the process for selecting the next President is characterized by open consultation and is conducted independent of political views, as it always has been in the past.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator



Hillary Rodham Clinton  
U.S. Senator



Frank R. Lautenberg  
U.S. Senator